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ANNUAL REPORT

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HODDESDON URBAN DISTRICT

For the Year 1956

Report presented by:

The Medical Officer of Health and Chief Public Health Inspector

Hoddesdon Urban District

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HODDESDON URBAN DISTRICT

Annual Report on the Health of the District for the Year 1956.

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EAST HERTFORDSHIRE COMBINED SANITARY DISTRICTS

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1956

HODDESDON URBAN DISTRICT

PREFACE

To the Chairman and Councillors, Hoddesdon Urban District,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present herewith my Report on the Health of the District in 1956. The Report has been drawn up on the lines suggested by the Ministry of Health. Following my Report, is the Report of your Chief Public Health Inspector.

Cost of Printing the Report.

Because of the high cost of printing the Annual Report each year, the appropriate Committee of the East Hertfordshire Combined Sanitary Districts decided by a majority vote that the Annual Report for 1956 should be produced separately, in stencilled form, for each separate District. Thus my Report for 1956 for East Herts is in seven parts.

So far as I can trace the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the East Hertfordshire Combined Districts has appeared in printed form ever since the Combined Districts were formed late last Century. Furthermore, it has, with the exception of the year 1894, appeared as a Combined Districts Report. In 1894 Dr. George Turner, Medical Officer of Health, reported that the Ware Urban Sanitary Authority alone decided to have a separate Report. There is then a gap in my Records, but the next Report in my possession, for the year 1899, shows that Ware Urban District has thought better of its earlier decision and is reported along with the other six Districts.

Let us hope history will repeat itself, and that it will be possible to produce the M.O.H. Annual Report in combined form once more. I think that a comment made by Dr. George Turner in his Report for 1894 is applicable to the present day position, and I make no apologies for reproducing his remarks:-

"A common report possesses many advantages, since it prevents useless repetition, much of the advice given to any one Sanitary Authority being more or less applicable to all." ". . . . . and as the conditions of life are very similar in all the Districts, any deviation from the general average should attract attention and lead to enquiry."

Vital Statistics.

The Registrar General has estimated that the population of Hoddesdon increased by 550 persons to a total of 15,600 persons. This increase is made up of an excess of Births over Deaths amounting to 102 persons, and an inward migration into Hoddesdon of 448 people.

The Standardised Death Rate at 11·24 persons per 1,000 population compares very favourably with the National Average of 11·7. Deaths of men exceeded those amongst women by 18, and 6 infants under the age of 1 year also died.

The Birth Rate for Hoddesdon at 16·67 per 1,000 population is again higher than the Rate for the rest of the Country (15·7).

Notifiable Disease.

Hoddesdon escaped any major outbreak of illness during 1956. There were 71 cases of Whooping Cough scattered throughout the year. No cases of Food Poisoning or Dysentery were reported.

There were 15 new cases of Tuberculosis, and 5 cures during the year.

Social Services.

Existing Services were added to by the commencement of a Chiropody Service for the Old Folk; and the Citizens Advice Bureau obtained the Services of a Legal Advisor and a Marriage Guidance Counsellor.

Environmental Hygiene.

Your Chief Public Health Inspector has reported in detail on this aspect of the work in Section C of this Report. In spite of the fact he was without adequate assistance during part of the year, due to a staff change, an enormous amount of work has been carried out in connection with substandard housing.

Bacteriological Sampling of Ice Cream suffered a setback during the year. Because of an internal reorganisation, the Hertford Group of Hospitals can no longer accept routine samples of ice cream for testing. Formerly samples of ice cream were tested at the Hertford County Hospital Laboratory. Ice cream samples are now sent to the Cambridge Public Health Laboratory, by passenger train, from Broxbourne.

Similarly water samples for bacteriological testing, from the mains supply and the swimming pool are sent to Cambridge.

The Service provided by that laboratory is excellent. Nevertheless, a Public Health Laboratory nearer to hand would be an advantage.

There is a site 'earmarked' for a Public Health Laboratory in Hertford, but I understand that restriction on capital expenditure, aggravated by the more recent Credit Squeeze, has rendered the possibility of a new Public Health Laboratory to serve East Hertfordshire and the surrounding territory, even more unlikely.

In conclusion, I wish to place on record my appreciation for all the help I have received from the Council, my Colleagues, and other members of the Staff, during the Year.

John Wildman,

Medical Officer of Health.

Hoddesdon. July, 1957.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT - STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

John H. WILDMAN, M.R.C.S., (Eng.), L.R.C.P., (Lond.), D.P.H.

Central Office: (East Herts Combined Dists:) Council Offices, High Street, HODDESDON, Herts.

Telephone: Office:- Hoddesdon 3061
Private:- Hoddesdon 2908

Deputy (Part-Time) Medical Officer of Health.

Peter de Bec TURTLE, V.R.D., M.A., B.M., B.Ch., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS.

Chief Public Health Inspector (Also Housing Manager): W.N. DAVID.
Certificate of the R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B.
Certificate for Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.
Smoke Inspector's Certificate.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector (Also Deputy Housing Manager) A.C. GITTINS.
(Appointed 9th July, 1956)
Certificate of the R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B.
Certificate for Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.
Diploma of The Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene
Certificate of the Institute of Housing in Housing Management

Additional Public Health Inspector W.F. FORREST.
(Resigned 31st May, 1956)
Certificate of the R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B.
Certificate for Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Trainee Public Health Inspector - Mr. R. Coldham

Clerical Duties in the Public Health Department are in the charge of Mr. F.R. Kempton, Housing Assistant.

Public Health Department: Council Offices, High Street, Hoddesdon, Herts. Telephone: Hoddesdon 3061.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Public Health Committee for the Session 1956/57 was Councillor Mr. A.W.J. LARMAN.

Also on the Committee were Councillors Mrs. W.M. WALSHE, Miss A.M.OAKES, Councillor Dr. F.J. LANG, M.B.E., and Councillors Messrs. J.G.WATKIN, J.P., H.J. EWERS, H.G. CLARK, G.S.H. GIDDINGS, C.G. TILLING, and F.E. RYMILL (Vice-Chairman).

SECTION A.

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1956

(Table 1)

(Figures for 1955 are shown in brackets)

POPULATION.

Estimated Mid-Year Population of Hoddesdon Urban District

15,600 (15,050)

Natural Increase or decrease	+ 102
Migration in or out	+ 448
Total Increase or decrease	+ 550

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in Acres ... ... 4,423 No Change.

Number of Inhabited Domestic Premises according to Rate Books as at 30th June, 1956

4,559 (4,454)

Number of Houses per acre.	1·03
Number of Persons per acre.	3·5
Number of Persons per house.	3·4

Rateable Value of District £179,832

Sum Represented by a Penny Rate £685.

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1956

(Table 2)

(Figures for 1955 are shown in brackets).

BIRTHS.

Standardised Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population 16·67 (16·38)

Area Comparability Factor for Births ... 1·00 (1·04)

Number of Live Births

	Male	Female	Total
Total:	141	119	260
Legitimate:	136	111	247
Illegitimate:	5	8	13
Number of Still Births	3	2	5

DEATHS.

Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population 11·24 (10·25)

Area Comparability Factor for Deaths ... 1·11 (0·97)

Number of Deaths

	Male	Female	Total
All Ages - Total:	88	70	158
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	5	1	6
No. under 4 weeks of age	3	0	3

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 related Live Births 23·08

COMPARISON WITH RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

BIRTH RATE. 15·7 (15·0) DEATH RATE. 11·7 (11·7)

Infantile Mortality Rate. 23·8 (24·9)

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) Notified during 1956

Disease	Total	Age Group in Years					
		Under 1	1-	5-	15-	25-	Over 65
Scarlet Fever	4	-	-	4	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	71	3	31	32	1	4	-
Poliomyelitis (Acute) Paralytic	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis (Acute) Non-Paralytic	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Measles	4	-	1	3	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	11	-	1	-	-	8	2
Erysipelas	4	-	-	-	-	4	-
Meningococcal Infection	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Infective Jaundice	6	-	-	-	1	5	-

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE DURING THE DIFFERENT MONTHS

Disease	First Quarter			Second Quarter			Third Quarter			Fourth Quarter		
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Scarlet Fever	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Whooping Cough	8	7	4	1	4	14	18	9	2	2	2	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1
Acute Pneumonia	1	1	2	4	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-
Erysipelas	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Inf'n	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Infective Jaundice	2	1	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS during 1956

Tuberculosis New cases only	Age Group in Years							
	Total all Ages	Under 5 Years	5 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 and over	Age not known
Respiratory	13	-	1	3	2	4	3	-
Meninges and C.N.S.	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-

Tuberculosis All Cases		Total	Males		Females	
			P.	N.P.	P.	N.P.
Cases on Register at 1st January, 1956		84	37	10	29	8
Cases added to Register	New Cases	15	7	-	6	2
	Restored to Register	0	-	-	-	-
	Inward Transfers	6	2	-	3	1
Cases removed from Register	Deaths	2	2	-	-	-
	Outward Transfers	0	-	-	-	-
	Patients Cured	5	1	1	2	1
Cases Remaining on Register at 31st December, 1956		98	43	9	36	10

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1956.

Line No.		M.	F.
	ALL CAUSES	88	70
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory.	2	0
2	Tuberculosis, other.	0	0
3	Syphilitic disease..	0	0
4	Diphtheria	0	0
5	Whooping Cough	0	0
6	Meningoccocal infections..	0	0
7	Acute Poliomyelitis.	0	0
8	Measles	0	0
9	Other infective and parasitic disease.	0	0
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	1
11	" " lung, bronchus ...	5	3
12	" " breast	0	4
13	" " uterus	0	0
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	20	9
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	0
16	Diabetes	1	0
17	Vascular Lesions of nervous system ...	4	14
18	Coronary disease, angina..	14	6
19	Hypertension with heart disease. ...	0	2
20	Other heart disease	4	12
21	Other circulatory disease.	3	4
22	Influenza	0	0
23	Pneumonia	2	0
24	Bronchitis	4	1
25	Other diseases of respiratory system...	0	0
26	Ulcer of Stomach and duodenum... ...	1	0
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	0	0
28	Nephritis and nephrosis...	0	0
29	Hyperplasia of prostate...	2	0
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion. ...	0	0
31	Congenital malformations..	1	0
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	14	8
33	Motor vehicle accidents...	4	0
34	All other accidents	2	5
35	Suicide	2	1
36	Homicide and operations of war.. ...	0	0
(a)	Still Births..	3	2
(b)	Deaths of infants under four weeks of age	3	0
(c)	" " " four weeks to one year of age	2	1

CAUSES OF DEATH - Comment.

Diseases of the Heart and Circulation caused 63 out of the total of 158 deaths. Coronary Artery disease and Angina killed 14 men and 6 women. This type of disease is now considered to be PREVENTABLE. Overweight contributes to this group of diseases by causing the heart and circulation to work under difficulties. It has been suggested that persons of middle age should aim to keep their weight down to the level at which it was when they were 25 years old !

A further 45 deaths were from Cancer - 8 of them (5 men and 3 women) due to Cancer of the lung. There were remarkedly few deaths - only 7 in number - from Pneumonia and Bronchitis.

There were 6 deaths amongst infants under the age of one year. In 4 cases the cause of death was unavoidable.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR HODDESDON

LABORATORY SERVICE.

Laboratory facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Cambridge.

In emergency, certain (Medical) specimens can be examined at the Laboratory of the Hertford County Hospital, Hertford.

COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SERVICES.

The following County Council Services under the National Health Service Act, 1946, are available for Hoddesdon. Full details can be obtained from the County Medical Officer, County Hall, Hertford.

Home Nursing, Midwifery, Health Visiting and Welfare Centres.

Number of Nurses: 5 Welfare Centres: 2

Vaccinations, Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisations.

A Medical Officer at the Welfare Centres will vaccinate or immunise babies at the request of parents. Family Doctors will also provide this prophylaxis free of charge.

Home and Domestic Help.

Applications for this Service should be addressed to the Local Organiser at 27 Bull Plain, Hertford (Telephone: Hertford 3232).

A charge may be made for this Service, in accordance with the County Council's assessment scale.

Care and After Care.

Applications for recuperative holidays, if recommended by the Medical Attendant, should be made to the County Medical Officer.

Equipment can be issued on loan to patients being nursed at home. A Medical Loan Depot has been established at the Council Offices.

A charge may be made for both the above Services.

Ambulance Service.

There is an Ambulance Station at Hoddesdon; Telephone - Hoddesdon 3021. Except in emergency an ambulance should be ordered by a Medical Practitioner.

Day Nurseries

The nearest Day Nurseries are at Bowling Road, Ware, and at Waltham Cross.

Mental Health.

Arrangements for mental treatment on the recommendation of a Medical Practitioner are made by the Duly Authorised Officer, Mr. W.T. MEDHURST, Collett Road, Ware Herts; (Telephone: WARE 541).

Help in respect of Mentally Defective persons can be obtained by application to the County Medical Officer.

An Occupation Centre for defective children has been established in Hertford.

HOSPITAL SERVICES.

Hoddesdon is served chiefly by the Hertford County Hospital, Hertford.

Chronic Sick can receive hospital treatment at Western House Hospital, Collett Road, Ware.

All the above beds are managed by the Hertford Group Hospital Management Committee, within the North East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.

Western House also provides beds under Part III of the National Assistance Act, 1948, on behalf of the Hertfordshire County Council.

GENERAL PRACTITIONER MEDICAL SERVICES.

There are 11 doctors in Hoddesdon. Practitioners from adjoining areas also have some patients in Hoddesdon.

DENTAL SERVICE.

There are now 3 dentists in Hoddesdon. There is also a School Dental Clinic at the Welfare Centre adjoining the Council Offices.

OTHER SERVICES.

There is a Mortuary managed by the Council.

Blood Transfusion Donor Sessions are held at the Welfare Centre adjoining the Council Offices.

There is a very active Old People's Welfare Service comprising an Over 60's Club, Meals Service, Visiting Committee, and Chiropody Service.

A Citizens Advice Bureau holds sessions on Mondays 7.30 - 9 p.m. and Wednesdays 2.30 - 4 p.m., at the Public Library, High Street, Hoddesdon. The Bureau, which serves a wide area around Hoddesdon, possesses a Legal Advisor and a Marriage Guidance Counsellor.

S E C T I O N C.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For the Year 1956

HODDESDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Offices,
Hoddesdon,
Herts.

July, 1957.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Public Health Committee.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1 9 5 6

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit for your consideration, my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1956.

STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION

In May, 1956 my colleague, Mr. W.F. Forrest terminated his employment with the Council. Mr. A.C. Gittins who was appointed as Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector commenced his duties with the Council on July 9th, 1956. The post of Additional Public Health Inspector remained unfilled at the end of the year, although it has been re-advertised. Despite staffing difficulties, the programme for slum clearance was fulfilled according to plan and it will be noted that there has been an increase in the work of meat inspection and of inspections and visits in connection with the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The detailed Report for the year is given on the following pages.

I would like to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support and understanding during the year and also to the Medical Officer of Health and my fellow Chief Officers for their ready assistance at all times. I wish to record my sincere appreciation of the work done by each member of the staff of my Department and to thank them for their loyal and uncomplaining service.

WATER SUPPLIES

PUBLIC MAINS SUPPLY:

With the exception of a few houses in the outlying parts of the district, water is derived from the public mains and one house was connected to the mains during the year. Three samples were taken, all of which were satisfactory.

PRIVATE SUPPLIES:

Eighteen samples of domestic water were taken during the year, of which seventeen were derived from wells and one from a river.

At five of the premises involved samples proved to be unsatisfactory on bacteriological examination. In one case a filter was installed and satisfactory samples were subsequently obtained: in four cases the consumers were advised to boil all drinking water and in two of these, negotiations for improved supplies were still proceeding at the end of the year.

FACTORY SUPPLIES:

Two factory water supplies were sampled during the year and both proved to be bacteriologically satisfactory.

WATERCRESS BEDS, CONDUIT LANE, HODDESDON:

Unsatisfactory samples were obtained from the water supply to these beds and the owner was asked to ensure that a safe supply was provided. Subsequent sampling gave satisfactory results.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The greater part of the developed areas of the district is served, this being disposed of at Broxbourne and Wormley by broad irrigation, following screening and settlement. The Rye Park Sewage Works deals with sewage from the old Urban area of Hoddesdon.

A Scheme has been approved for pumping the whole of the foul drainage into the Rye Meads Sewage Disposal Works at Rye House.

Northern Drainage Area:

Late in the year application for loan sanction was submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in order to proceed with the scheme of sewering Nursery Road and part of Stanstead Road, Hoddesdon, and approval was received in early 1957.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Household refuse is collected weekly and special arrangements are made for a weekly collection of trade refuse. This part of the Council's work is supervised by the Engineer and Surveyor.

Until the end of June the refuse was disposed of at the Council's controlled tip at Cock Lane. Shortly before this date a gravel pit belonging to Messrs. Inns at Lodge Hollow, Cock Lane, Hoddesdon came into use for the deposit of household refuse from the Borough of St. Pancras. Consent under the Public Health Act, 1936 and the Town Planning Act, 1947 had been given to this arrangement. As the gravel pit nearby which had been used as the Council's refuse tip for several years had now, for all practical purposes, been filled, the Council's Engineer and Surveyor made arrangements to dispose of the refuse from the Hoddesdon district in the privately owned and controlled tip at Lodge Hollow.

HOUSING ACTS, 1936 - 1952
HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954

SLUM CLEARANCE:

1956 saw the completion of the first year's work in the programme as submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government for the five-year period from November, 1955.

The following areas, comprising twenty-nine houses, were inspected and represented during the year:

Nos. 2 & 4, Essex Road, Hoddesdon

Nos. 1 & 2, River Cottages, Wormley

Nos. 23, 25 & 27, Duke Street, Hoddesdon

Nos. 29 & 31, Duke Street, Hoddesdon

Nos. 183 & 185, Lord Street, Hoddesdon

Nos. 104, 106 & 108 Amwell Street and
Nos. 4, 6 & 8, Duke Street, Hoddesdon

Nos. 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15 & 17
Pauls Lane, Hoddesdon

Nos. 24, 26, 28 & 30, High Road, Wormley

In addition the following dwelling was dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1956:

Hut at "Naomi", Charlton Mead, Hoddesdon.

By the end of the year, eleven of the occupants of these houses had been rehoused by the Council.

The owners of 185, Lord Street appealed against the Council's Clearance Order. The hearing of the objection was held at the Council Offices on 31st July, 1956. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government confirmed the Order without modification.

During the year the following properties were demolished:

2, High Road, Wormley,

39a & 39b, Duke Street, Hoddesdon

2 & 4, Essex Road, Hoddesdon

Hut rear of "Naomi", Charlton Mead, Hoddesdon

Elm Place, High Street, Hoddesdon

Elm Cottage, High Street, Hoddesdon,

the latter two properties being owned by the Council, and at the end of 1956 the overall position was as indicated in the table below:

	No. of Houses
Clearance Areas - 11 in number	
Inspected and represented	34
Order confirmed	16
Confirmation or appeal decision awaited	18
Demolished	2
Individual houses (Dealt with by formal or informal action)	
Demolished	22
Closed, or undertaking accepted	8

CERTIFICATE OF DISREPAIR:

A Certificate of Disrepair under Part II of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, was granted to the occupier of one property during the year. A Certificate issued in 1955 in respect of another property was withdrawn.

IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSING ACCOMMODATION:

Improvement grants were approved on the following nine properties:

16, Church Lane, Wormley

1, Cecil Road, Hoddesdon

5a, Hertford Road, Hoddesdon

31, Westlea Road, Wormley

15, 16 & 17, Macers Lane, Wormley

Larch Cottage, Cock Lane, Hoddesdon

Warner Cottage, Cock Lane, Hoddesdon

The scheme in respect of 16, Church Lane, Wormley was eventually abandoned due to lack of resources.

The following table compares 1956 with 1955 and shows the progress of the improvement schemes dealt with by the Department:

	1955		1956	
	No. of Dwellings	Value of Grants	No. of Dwellings	Value of Grants
Approved	12	£1,730.5.0.	9	£2,299.15.0.
Completed	5	505.18.0.	2	599. 5.0.
Not Completed	+ 7	1,224.7.0.	7	1,700.10.0.

+ Of these 7, 6 were completed and 1 still remained uncompleted in 1956

HOUSING PROGRESS.

By Private Enterprise.	During 1956	Total since end of the war.
New dwellings erected	168	618
War destroyed dwellings rebuilt	-	5
Repairs of war damaged houses	-	-
Conversions or adaptations in terms of family units	-	23
By Local Authority.		
New dwellings erected	47	617
Conversions or adaptations in terms of family units	-	8
Temporary Prefabricated bungalows	-	38
By Other Authorities. (including Police Cottages, etc.)		
New Dwellings erected	-	10

Properties Controlled by the Local Authority at 31st December, 1956

Council Houses	977
Temporary Prefabricated Bungalows	38
Sundry Other Properties	16
Shops	4

Sale of Council Houses.

During the year two post-war and five pre-war Council houses were sold to tenants in possession.

INSPECTIONS ETC.

The following visits for inspection or reinspection under the various Acts have been made:

PUBLIC HEALTH ETC. ACTS:

Dwelling houses (Section 92 nuisances)	1294
- ditto - (Drains and sewers)	70
- ditto - (Dustbins)	187
- ditto - (Vermin)	10
- ditto - (Water Supply)	5
Infectious Diseases	7
Moveable Dwellings	18
Tents, Vans and Sheds	51
Ditches and Watercourses	7
Refuse Tips, etc.	14
Atmospheric Pollution	24
Sanitary Accommodation at Public Houses, Conveniences etc.	21
Hairdressers	7
Schools - Sanitary Accommodation and Food Hygiene	6
Fireguards	6
Swimming Pool	33

HOUSING ACTS:

Individual Unfit Houses	4
Clearance Areas	66
Certificates of Disrepair	12
Overcrowding	12
Improvement	53
Others	34

FACTORIES:

Factories	49
Outworkers	2
Certificates re. fire escape	5

SHOPS:

Provisions of Section 38	55

FOOD & FOOD HYGIENE:

Food Premises	127
Food Stalls and Vehicles	57
Ice Cream Retail	21
Preserved Foods Premises	4
Milk Distribution	11
Meat Slaughtering and Distribution	35
Meat Inspection	58
Other Food Inspections	6
Sampling	19

PESTS:

Rodents - Domestic Premises	972
- Business Premises	71
- Other Premises and Houses	39
Insects	58

PETROLEUM ACTS AND REGULATIONS:

Petroleum Spirit Other Liquids	77

MISCELLANEOUS:

Miscellaneous Inspections	258
Interviews with owners, agents, builders, etc.	57
	3922

Complaints Received	281
Letters Sent	497
Informal Notices Served	56
Statutory Notices Served	5

FLOODING

Essex Road/Charlton Mead Area:

Early in 1956 there was a repetition of the flooding of this area and investigation again pointed to the possibility of leakage from the culvert taking water from the cooling towers of the Central Electricity Authority generating station. The line of the culvert was excavated and a number of leaks were sealed up. No further trouble was reported during the year.

SMOKE NUISANCES

The owner of a cleaning and dyeing works was approached following the emission of excessive smoke from his oil-fired boiler. He in turn took advice from a firm of combustion engineers and no further nuisance has been caused.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Measurement and Recording

There are two stations in this district, one at New River Close, Rye Park and one on the roof of the Council Offices. Each station consists of a deposit gauge for collecting soot, ash and grit, and a lead peroxide instrument for measuring sulphur. Details of the results of samples taken during the year are given overleaf.

Month	Rain-fall mm.	Insoluble Deposit	Soluble Deposit	Total Solids	SO_3 mg./day/100 cm^2 of Batch A Lead Peroxide.
		Tons per square mile.			
Station No. 1. Council Offices, High Street, Hoddesdon:					
January	75	3.05	9.53	12.58	1.09
February	4	1.01	3.66	4.67	1.24
March	15	4.23	3.89	8.12	1.14
April	27	4.77	4.03	8.80	0.73
May	8	4.03	2.75	6.78	0.58
June	53	3.09	3.49	6.58	0.53
July	94	3.66	3.36	7.02	0.22
August	102	2.82	4.16	6.98	0.31
September	48	2.62	2.18	4.80	0.45
October	37	1.78	3.42	5.20	0.61
November	13	3.12	3.96	7.08	1.28
December	49	4.63	2.99	7.62	1.27
Station No. 2. New River Close, Hoddesdon:					
January	76	3.49	8.13	11.62	1.64
Feburary	7	3.36	2.83	6.19	0.89
March	18	6.12	3.29	9.41	0.79
April	25	3.42	3.59	7.01	0.57
May	9	9.06	2.47	11.53	0.39
June	54	7.01	5.07	12.08	0.39
July	103	5.10	3.95	9.05	0.28
August	116	2.77	3.85	6.62	0.24
September	51	3.79	2.77	6.56	0.38
October	31	3.19	2.47	5.66	0.57
November	15	3.06	1.94	5.00	1.01
December	64	5.30	2.11	7.41	0.82

The following graph may provide some comparison of readings for 1956 with those of the previous three years.

The abnormal reading for Station No. ~~1~~ 2 deposit gauge for April 1954 and May 1955 are not explainable, although the possibility of some persons tampering with the gauge has not been excluded.

EALTH
7AUG57
18

HODDESDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health & Housing Department,
Council Offices,
High Street,
HODDESDON, Herts.

26th August, 1957.

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE HEALTH OF HODDESDON
URBAN DISTRICT FOR THE YEAR 1956

E R R A T U M

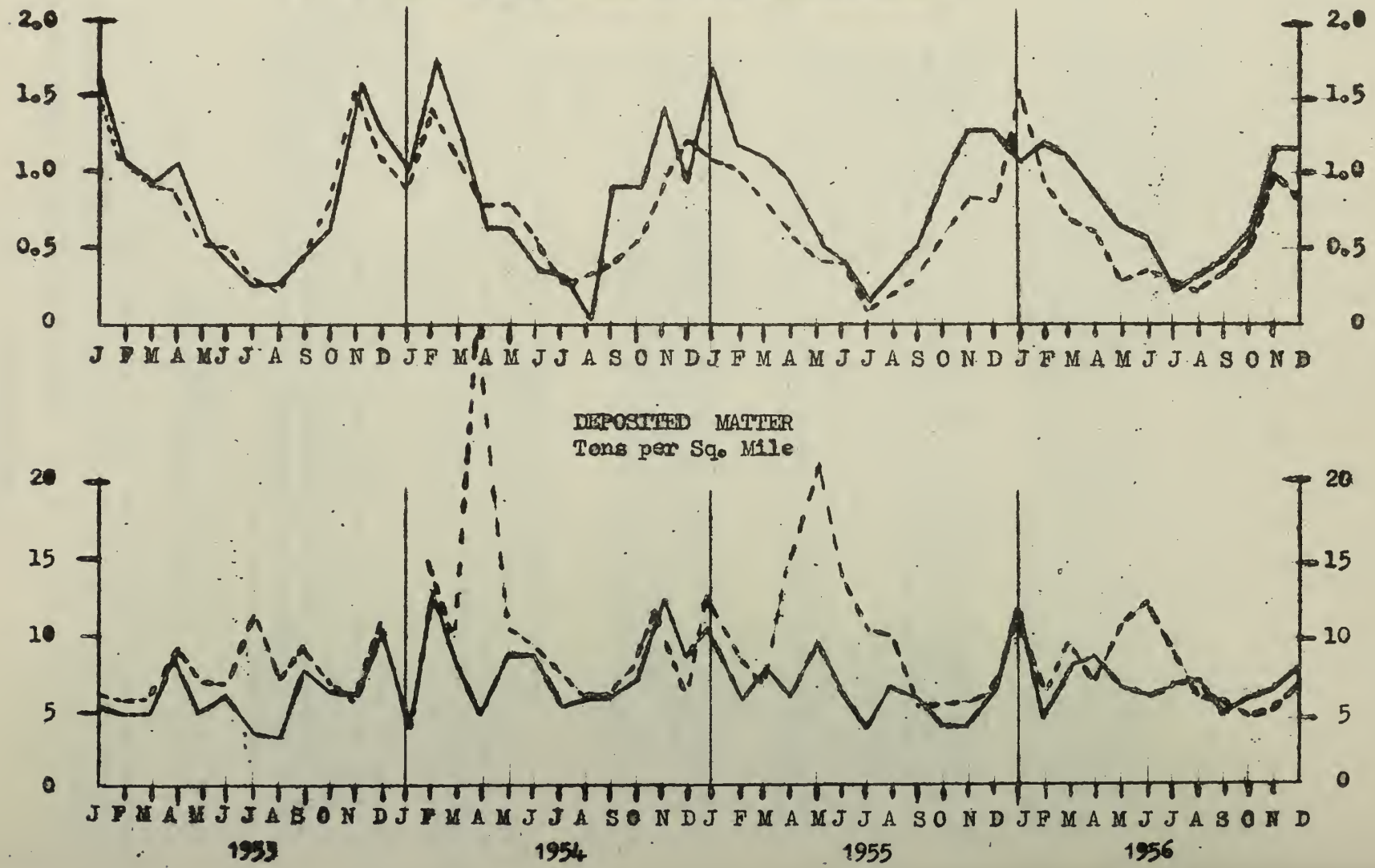
PAGE 28. For "Station No. 1" in the final paragraph read "Station No. 2."

COMPARISON OF READINGS OF ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION -

Station No. 1. ———

Station No. 2. - - - -

ESTIMATION OF SULPHUR BY LEAD PEROXIDE METHOD



SANITARY CONVENIENCES

Licensed Premises - Public Houses:

Modernised and increased sanitary accommodation was secured at one public house in the district, after rather protracted representations.

HOME COUNTIES (MUSIC & DANCING) LICENSING ACT, 1926:

In April, 1953, a sub-committee of the Herts & Beds Branch of the (then) Sanitary Inspectors' Association made suggestions as to the provision of sanitary conveniences at premises licensed by the Hertfordshire County Council for music and dancing. This followed information from the County Licences Offices that the regulations under the Act were being revised to include the provision of sanitary conveniences.

It was not found possible to adopt the suggestions as they stood, but in order to obtain some improvement in sanitary conditions and to provide a liaison between the County Council and the District Councils, the following clause has been inserted in the regulations:

"Clause 5:

Applications for a licence shall contain details of the proposed use of the premises under the licence, the average and maximum numbers of persons who will attend, and the days of the week on which the premises will be used for public entertainment.

All new applications for a licence shall be accompanied by a letter from the County District Council for the area in which the premises are situated, stating whether or not the County District Council wishes to make any objection on sanitary grounds to the licensing of the premises, having regard to the proposed use of the premises, the number of persons who will be attending, the frequency with which the premises will be used, and the general type, construction and situation of the premises.

All applications for renewal of existing licences will be notified by the County Council to the County District Council by letter, asking whether the County District Council wishes to object to the renewal of a licence on sanitary grounds, having regard to similar considerations to those set out in the preceding paragraph."

SWIMMING POOL

The "Spinning Wheel" swimming pool in Hoddesdon which is owned by the Council and administered by the Engineer and Surveyor was open again in 1956 from 27th April to 7th October.

Water is supplied from the public mains and is treated by sand filtration and "break point" chlorination. The water is heated as required to a reasonable temperature.

Regular routine residual chlorine tests were made at the pool and nineteen samples were taken for bacteriological examination by the Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge. In addition one full chemical analysis was made. All the tests showed the water to be satisfactory.

During the year there was one breakdown in the filtering apparatus which was repaired and restored to normal working in a short time.

MILK AND DAIRIES

Number of dairies registered	6
Number of dealers licensed	19
Number of dealers licensed to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk	7
Number of dealers licensed to sell Pasteurised Milk	10
Number of dealers licensed to sell Sterilised Milk	16
Number of dealers from other districts licensed to sell milk in this district ("supplementary licences")	2

None of the dealers bottles milk and there are no pasteurising plants in the district.

Milk Sampling:

Seventeen samples of milk were taken from dealers in the district and submitted for bacteriological examination. A summary of the results is given below:

Type of Milk	Passed Prescribed Test	Failed to Pass Prescribed Test
"Pasteurised"	16	NIL
"Tuberculin Tested"	1	NIL

School Milk:

Eighteen samples of milk supplied to schools in the district were taken during the year by the County Council Sampling Officers. All were reported as being satisfactory.

Biological Sampling:

The County Council Sampling Officers take samples of milk from producers for biological examination for the presence of bacillus tuberculosis and brucella abortus.

FOOD AND DRUGS

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955:

With the introduction of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 an effort has been made to visit all food premises to ensure compliance with their requirements, but due to staff shortage this has not been achieved. The figures given in relation to inspections made will indicate the amount of progress which it was possible to make. All food traders were informed of the more important provisions.

The following is an approximate indication of the food premises in the district by type and number:

Bakehouses	4	
Bakery and Confectionery Shops	7	
Restaurants & Refreshment Rooms	24	
Public Houses	26	
Sweet Shops	28	
Grocery Shops	44	
Greengrocery Shops	16	
Butchers' Shops	15	
Fishmongers' Shops	6	3 shops sell both wet and fried fish.
Fried Fish Shops	4	
Factory Canteens	11	
School Canteens	12	
Mobile Snack Bars	1	
Miscellaneous Food Premises	3	

The following improvements were effected:-

Drainage improved in 2 cases.
Sanitary Accommodation improved in 5 cases.
Washing facilities provided in 1 case.
Floors, walls and ceilings cleaned in 2 cases.
Ventilation improved in 1 case.
Hygiene arrangements improved in 4 cases.
Personal cleanliness improved in 1 case.

SECTION 16. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

There are 19 premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pickled or preserved food, and there are 51 premises registered for the sale, or storage of ice-cream. There are no premises registered for the manufacture of ice-cream.

Three retailers using vehicles are known to visit the district, mainly during the summer months, from premises registered by other local authorities.

The number of inspections made of premises in these categories is shown in the table on page 26.

ICE-CREAM SAMPLING:

Nine samples of ice-cream were submitted for bacteriological examination with the following results:-

	Provisional Grade			
	1	2	3	4
Unopened pre-packed as retailed	4	2	-	-
Opened, as cut for retail	2	1	-	-

MARKET:

Regular inspection of stalls and trading methods is made and stall-holders are asked to provide protection for the foodstuffs displayed. Some difficulty has been experienced in ensuring that food is not left at or near ground level where contamination is possible, due usually to shortage of space about the stalls. Advice to the stall-holders has achieved the desired results without resource to formal enforcement.

Personal washing facilities for the use of the market trades people are provided by the Council in the Clock Tower conveniences.

MISCELLANEOUS FOOD COMPLAINTS:

From time to time members of the public come to the Department for advice and information on foodstuffs containing extraneous matter or suspected of causing intestinal and stomach disturbance. The following are brief details of the more important items dealt with:-

1. Sausage roll contaminated with dirt.
2. Loaf of bread containing piece of metal.
3. Nut oil butter containing fibre.
4. Chocolate containing maggots.
5. Jar of meat extract suspected of causing stomach disturbance.

In no case was the information and evidence sufficient to give cause for formal actions. In the first three cases the suppliers were cautioned and in the fourth the remaining stock was withdrawn as a precaution. Bacteriological examination of the meat extract showed that there were no harmful organisms present.

UNSOUND FOOD:

Details of food which was found to be unfit for human consumption and was surrendered are given below, such food being disposed of in the Council's controlled tip at Cock Lane, Hoddesdon. The majority of the meat listed was encountered at the slaughterhouse in the course of inspection of carcases.

Canned Foodstuffs

	cwt.	lbs.
Ham		24
Corned Beef		30
Luncheon Meat		60
Other Meat Products		3
Vegetables		32½
Fruit		3
Milk		2
	1	42½

Meat.

	cwt.	lbs.
Beef		16
Ox heads		105
Ox liver	1	60
Ox tongue		12
Ox heart		4
Pig's liver		37
Tripe		10
Meat Trimmings		15
	3	35

Other Foodstuffs

	cwt.	lbs.
Cheese		28
		28

	cwt.	lbs.
Total weight of all foodstuffs	4	105½

SLAUGHTERHOUSES:

There is one slaughterhouse in operation in the district and a licence has been issued for the period to 31st December, 1957.

Details of carcases inspected during the year are given below.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle Ex. Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep & & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	118	-	5	253	227	-
Number inspected	118	-	5	253	227	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	21	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis & cysticerci.	17.85%	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	-	-	-	3	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis only.	4.25%	-	-	-	1.32%	-
Cysticercosis only:						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with cysticercosis	0.85%	-	-	-	-	-

SLAUGHTERMEN:

There were three persons licensed to act as slaughtermen under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Private Dwellings:

The Council continued to give a free service to private dwellings and 109 complaints of infestation were received from occupiers during the year.

Business Premises:

Contracts with the owners of three commercial properties for the servicing and treatment of their premises, were in operation during the year, one of which terminated in June and was not renewed. Treatment of fourteen business premises was carried out by arrangement with the owner on a time and material basis.

Agricultural Properties:

Although the Council is the reponsible authority under the Act, infestation on farm properties are referred to the County Agricultural Committee, who, by agreement continue to carry out the treatment of such properties.

Sewers:

In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, test baiting of the Council's three sewerage systems was carried out in June with the following results.

	Hoddesdon & Rye Park	Broxbourne	Wormley
Total No. of Sewer Manholes (approx.)	297	173	79
No. of Manholes Test Baited	39	16	-
No. of Manholes Showing "Takes"	5	-	-

Treatment was carried out as follows:-

June, 1956			
No. of Manholes Baited	9	-	-
No. of Manholes showing "Takes"	6	-	-
November, 1956			
No. of Manholes Baited	13	-	-
No. of Manholes showing "Takes"	10	-	-

Summary:

Details of inspections made, infestation recorded and treatments carried out during the year, are given in the table below:-

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Business Premises	Agricultural	Total
I Number of Properties inspected as a result of:					
(a) Notification	6	109	23	2	140
(b) Survey under the Act	29	375	44	5	453
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited for some other purpose	7	478	-	-	485
	42	962	67	7	1078
II Total inspections carried out including reinspections	190	1512	118	19	1789
III Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats Major:	1	-	-	-	1
(a) Rats Minor:	6	82	7	1	96
(b) Mice Major:	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Mice Minor:	2	23	7	-	32
	9	105	14	1	129
IV Number of infested properties treated by the Local Authority	9	105	14	1	129
V Total treatments carried out, including reinspections	14	149	18	1	182

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ACT, 1935.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS:

Consent was given during the year to the placing of six caravans on land in the Urban District for periods in no case more than twelve months. One of these vans was removed before the end of the year.

Dobbs Weir Caravan Camp, Charlton Meadow, Dobbs Weir:

The consent to the placing of 100 moveable dwellings at this camp continues until 1960. During the year there was no cause for complaint at the way in which the camp was managed, and samples of the water supply proved to be satisfactory.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Two pet shops were re-licensed and the conditions under which pets are kept continue to be satisfactory.

SECTION D.

FACTORIES ACTS. 1937 and 1948.

The following is a summary of information already supplied in detail to the Ministry of Labour and National Service on Form 572 (Revised), in respect of the year 1956.

Part 1 of the Act.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Factories without Mechanical Power:

Number on Register	13
Inspections	2

Factories with Mechanical Power:

Number on Register	102
Inspections	49
Written Notices	5

Other Premises under the Act:

(Electric Stations, Institutions, Sites of Building Operations, Works of Engineering Construction, but excluding Outworkers' Premises).

Number on Register	7
Inspections	-
Written Notices	-

2. Cases in which Defects were Found.

Defects	Found	Remedied
Want of Cleanliness	2	1
Sanitary Conveniences :		
(a) unsuitable or defective	2	1
(b) insufficient	2	2

Total Defects referred to H.M. Inspector ...	-
Total Defects referred by H.M. Inspector ...	1

Part VIII of the Act.

OUTWORK. (Sections 110 and 111) ... . Nil

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
LIBRARY

LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE AND TROPICAL MEDICINE
25 JUN 1965